

HEALTH
A 13 JUL 1948
G.R. 37



LUTTERWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

for the Year 1942.

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LUTTERWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1942.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of your District for the year 1941. It has been cut down in length in view of the exigencies of the times, and in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS.

						<u>1942</u>	<u>1941.</u>
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	46,701	
Estimated (civil) population	...	...	...	...	...	11,430	11,430
Births, legitimate	M.	97	F.	85	Total	182	158
illegitimate	M.	<u>1</u>	F.	<u>5</u>	"	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Totals:-</u>		98		90		<u>188</u>	<u>167</u>
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	16.4	14.1
" " (For England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	15.8	14.2
Stillbirths	...	...	...	4	(all legitimate)		
Deaths	...	...	M.61	F.63	<u>Total</u>	124	149
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	10.8	13.0
Factor for Comparative Death Rate - not available.							
Non-civilian deaths are excluded.							
Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	11.6	12.9
Death of Infants under one year of age	Legitimate					8	9
	Illegitimate					0	0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	...	42	55
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	...	49	59

Causes of Death.

The principal causes of death were: heart disease, 49; intra-cranial vascular lesions ("stroke"), 10; cancer, 12; pneumonia and bronchitis, 12; kidney disease, 4; tuberculosis, 3.

Comments on Statistics.

The figures for a single year in a small district (as regards population) such as Lutterworth R.D., cannot be taken as of great statistical value. As far as they go, however, the comparison with the previous year is highly satisfactory.

Perhaps, a more reliable comparison is to take the three war years, 1940 - 42, and compare the average with the three years before the war, 1937 - 39; we then have the following figures:-

	<u>Pre-war</u> <u>1937-39</u>	<u>War</u> <u>1940-42</u>
Births	156	167
Birth-rate	14.9	15.1
Deaths	134	142
Death-rate	12.8	12.8
Infant mortality	47	49
Estimated population	10440	11020

From these figures we see that the death-rate has not changed; the infant mortality is 2 per thousand births higher, and that the birth-rate is a fraction higher. The population is estimated to have increased by 580. When we consider everything that war entails it is indeed surprising that the vital statistics of Lutterworth R.D. in common with those of the country generally, have been so little affected by the war. How much we have to be thankful for, especially if we compare our lot with that of most European countries today.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	0
Typhoid Fever	0
Whooping Cough	6
Measles	8
Pneumonia	8

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Now that immunisation against diphtheria has become a national measure, it will constitute an important part of the work of all public health authorities, and in those districts, as in the Lutterworth and Blaby R.D., where the work is carried out by the M.O.H. personally, it will necessarily take up a large part of his time. In addition to the time occupied in the actual immunisation sessions and in travelling from centre to centre, involving a big mileage in such a large area as the Lutterworth R.D., there is a large amount of clerical work involved in making the necessary appointments and in keeping the requisite records and getting out the statistical records required.

During the year your M.O.H. has held 23 sessions at 14 centres, in the Lutterworth area, in addition to 52 sessions at 21 centres in the Blaby area. The Lutterworth sessions were as follows:

Diphtheria Immunisation
for 12 months ending 31st December, 1942
(Cases immunised by M.O.H.)

Centre	No. of Sessions	Children immunised	
		Under 5	Over 5
Lutterworth			
Infant Welfare Centre	8	87	12
Broughton Astley	3	26	-
Arnesby	1	—	—
Bruntingthorpe	1	113	12
Bitteswell	1	—	—
Dunton Bassett	1		
N. Kilworth	1		
S. Kilworth	1	Carried forward to 1943	
Shawell	1		
Shearsby	1		
Swinford	1		
Walcote	1		
Walton	1		
Willoughby W.	1		
	—		
	23		
	—		

It so happened that the second session for the last 12 of the centres shown above were not held till January 1943, so that the figures have had to be carried forward. Owing to this the figures for the year under review are smaller than they would have been, but the figures for 1943 will benefit proportionately. The figures show a big drop in comparison with the previous year, but this is because most of the older children have now been immunised, and the cases now coming forward are chiefly youngsters who have now reached the immunisation age.

In future we shall have to deal with children coming forward for re-immunisation, because as protection conferred by immunisation does not last indefinitely, it is recommended that it should be repeated after an interval of, say, five years. These re-immunisation figures will have to be shown separately.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that there was no case during the year (either in the Lutterworth or Blaby area) of an immunised child developing diphtheria. We must not expect, however, to be always so fortunate, because the protection conferred is not complete in every case, nor, as explained above, does it last indefinitely. Fortunately, if an immunised child does develop the disease, it is usually only a mild attack.

It is also satisfactory to be again able to report an absence of any serious after-effects following immunisation. In the great majority of children immunised there are no appreciable after-effects.

Proportion of children immunised.

As regards the proportion of the children in the Lutterworth R.D. who have now been immunised, only an approximate estimate can be given.

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>Over 5</u>
No. of children immunised by M.O.H. up to end of 1941	315	1208
No. of children immunised in 1942 ...	113	12
	—	—
Total ...	428	1220
	—	—

On the basis of the estimated child-population in the area, as given in my last Annual Report, viz. "Under 5", 777; "Over 5", 1706, the percentage works out as follows: "Under 5", 55%; "Over 5", 71%.

It is always much more difficult to obtain a high percentage immunised in the "Under 5" Group, especially in a rural district, largely owing to the difficulty of transport for mothers with young children unable to walk. In the case of the "Over 5" Group, the children are all at school, where the immunising is done; also the influence of the teachers and the force of example are a great help. But, unfortunately, it is the children under 5 who most need protecting from diphtheria. However, I hope to see the percentage higher during the coming year.

As regards active opposition to immunisation, I have not come across much of it. It is rather indifference or real difficulty in some cases, that is the trouble.

Scabies.

In last year's report particulars were given of the steps taken to provide a Treatment Centre for persons suffering from scabies and who had not adequate facilities at home. With the co-operation of the County Authorities this was arranged for at the Lutterworth Public assistance Institution. During the year the number of cases treated was:

	<u>Under 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Over 15 yrs.</u>
Males		
Females		
Total	61	

These figures are quite sufficient to justify the experiment. I wish to express my best thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Mockett, the Master and Matron, for their willing help and co-operation, without which the scheme could not have succeeded.

There are still many cases of this troublesome affection about, but I do not seem to have had quite so many brought to my notice during the year.

Laboratory Work.

The following examinations were made at the County Council's laboratory:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	122
Swabs for diphtheria	...	...	...	...	12
Sewage and water analyses	...	...	...	...	18
Sputa for T.B.	...	...	...	...	34
Urine (general & bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	4
Urine for T.B.	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	4
					198

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

These remain much the same as in previous years. A detailed account is this year omitted, but the following much abbreviated particulars are taken from the report of Mr. J. Berridge, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

(1) Water.

Samples taken for analysis:	satisfactory 18, unsatisfactory 6
No. of wells closed	...
" " " cleaned	...

Six parishes have a water supply from public mains, but there are still 23 parishes without such a supply. This is a defect which should, whenever practicable, be remedied when more normal times return.

Steps taken to improve water supply. Additional springs were collected into the Lutterworth supply; a new main was laid from Bitteswell Village to Bitteswell Park; new main laid from Bitteswell Road, Lutterworth, to Leicester Road; new main laid around Housing Estate to supply 100 houses.

(2) Drainage & Sewerage.

Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number remaining on 31st December	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Sewers. New sewers were laid on Housing Estate and two at North Kilworth.							

(3) Closest Accommodation.

Privies: Total number in District on 31st December	...	65
Pail Closets: " " " " " "	...	1384
Privies and Pail Closets converted to W.Cs	...	7

(4) Public Cleansing.

The refuse from 14 parishes is scavenged by direct labour; that from 9 parishes by contractors. The refuse is removed to approved tips. During the year much difficulty has been experienced with the scavenging in several parishes owing to the acute labour shortage. When men have given up work, from illness, through getting another job, or other cause, very great difficulty has been experienced in replacing them. This is easily understandable, as scavenging is not work which appeals to everybody.

(5) Sanitary Inspection.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	450
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Notices (preliminary) issued - Housing	23						
	Others	25				Total	48
Notices (statutory) issued	2

(6) Shops

Sanitary conveniences. Defects remedied	1
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(7) Inspection of Food

Cow keepers. No. on Register	255
No. of Inspections	186
Contraventions remedied	30

Purveyors of Milk. (Other than Cow-keepers)

No. on Register	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	37
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	5

Milk sampling.

Samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	30
Satisfactory	...	...	21
Unsatisfactory	...	...	9

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1) Dwelling Houses inspected (no. of visits 168)	...	104
(2) Defective Houses rendered fit by informal action	...	22
(3) (a) Housing Act, 1936: Houses in respect of which formal notices were served	...	Nil
(b) Public Health Act: Houses in respect of which notices were served	...	Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

No. of new cases of overcrowding ...	...	...	...	7
No. relieved ...	...	...	...	7
No. of persons concerned in such cases ...	...	...	...	43

In conclusion I would say that the war continues to dominate every other consideration, even in a rural district, yet it is satisfactory to know that the health of the community - speaking generally - continues satisfactory in spite of it.

(signed) C. Killick Millard, M.D., D.Sc., (Pub. Health)
Medical Officer of Health.

The Gilroes,
Leicester.

17th June 1943.